

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting the activity of a gene, the method comprising introducing an RNAi agent into a cell, wherein the RNAi agent is prepared by incubating a double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) ~~component targeted to the gene~~ in the presence of an RNAi pathway component, ~~and wherein the dsRNA component is targeted to the gene wherein the RNAi component is an RDE-1 polypeptide or homolog thereof~~.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the RNAi pathway component is an RDE-1 polypeptide.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~44~~ 36, wherein the RNAi pathway component is an RDE-4 polypeptide .

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the RNAi pathway components are an RDE-1 polypeptide and an RDE-4 polypeptide.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, 35 or 36, wherein the RNAi agent is introduced into the cell in a liposome.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, 35 or 36, wherein the RNAi agent is introduced into the cell by injection.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, 35 or 36, wherein the cell is in an animal.

23-34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) The A method of claim 14 inhibiting the activity of a gene, the method comprising introducing an RNAi agent into a cell, wherein the RNAi agent is prepared by incubating the a dsRNA component in the presence of at least two a first and second RNAi pathway components, wherein the first RNAi component is an RDE-1 polypeptide or homolog thereof and the second RNAi component is an RDE-4 polypeptide or homolog thereof.

Please add new claims 36-42, as follows:

36. (New) A method of inhibiting the activity of a gene, the method comprising introducing an RNAi agent into a cell, wherein the RNAi agent is prepared by incubating a double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) targeted to the gene in the presence of an RNAi pathway component, wherein the RNAi component is an RDE-4 polypeptide or homolog thereof.

37. (New) The method of claim 17 or 19, wherein the RDE-1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and is capable of promoting RNAi.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the RDE-1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:3.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the RDE-1 polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:3.

40. (New) The method of claim 18 or 19, wherein the RDE-4 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:5 and is capable of promoting RNAi.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the RDE-4 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the RDE-4 amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:5.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the RDE-4 polypeptide comprises the RDE-4 amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:5.